

P321

Grace Notes Radio Program
SERIES: Jonah
THEME: God can repay with Mercy
SONGS: BREAK THIS HEART
LORD SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We're studying the book of Jonah. The purpose of this book is to show that God is concerned for ALL mankind, not just the Jews, and that He will do whatever is necessary to accomplish His purpose of making Himself known, even to His enemies. 2 Peter 3:9 says that God is not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance. The book of Jonah anticipates the universality of Jesus' Gospel, and is the Old Testament counterpart to the salvation message of John 3:16 which says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that WHOSOEVER believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." On our program today, Barbara Sandbek will take a look at Jonah's reaction to God's call to go to Nineveh.

When God's word came to Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it – Jonah probably wondered if he heard correctly. This was the first time God had ever directed a prophet to give a message to the Gentiles – much less the feared and dreaded enemies of Israel. I'm sure Jonah was hoping that God would just zap them from the face of the earth in answer to the Israelites cry for help. Though the message was to be one of judgment, Jonah knew that if the Ninevites repented, God wouldn't judge them - He'd spare the city. Jonah sounded out his feelings in Jonah 4:3...

...I know you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

There's no doubt that God will right the wrongs that occur. In fact, Romans 12:19 says...

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge. I will repay says the Lord."

But it's God's choice in how He does it. Sometimes He uses MERCY rather than judgment to turn evil around to good. Romans 9:14 says...

Is God unjust? Not at all, for He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort,

but on God's mercy.

In the case of the Ninevites, God wanted to answer the Israelites cry for help with mercy and He chose Jonah to exercise His plan. One problem, though, Jonah wasn't willing. Jonah 1:3 says...

Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa where he boarded a ship for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Tarshish was west of Nineveh - as far in the other direction as Jonah could go. In those times, the Jews had pictured God as only residing in a certain area, so Jonah truly thought He could run away from Him. To the Jews the sea was the great unknown, inhabited by great sea monsters and chaos. But, Jonah was so set on evading God's call that all his natural fears of a long sea voyage were swept aside. He was bitter towards the Ninevites. Listen to what J. Vernon McGee wrote about this...

We don't know for sure, but it's reasonable to conceive that the Assyrians had come down against Jonah's hometown at one time. They may even have come to his home. He may have seen his own parents cruelly and brutally slain before his eyes.

More than likely this has not happened to you, but maybe someone has hurt you and God has told you to go get over the hurt and tell them about the salvation they can receive through Christ. You've done everything you can think of to avoid it. If this is the case, you're out of God's will just like Jonah was and are headed for trouble. A seed of bitterness has taken root in your heart. I've been there. In fact, I wrote a poem for myself - maybe it will help you, too.

***It's time to plow, the season's here.
No doubt God's made His message clear.
I sensed His Spirit has drawn near
convicting me of sin.
My heart was opened and He saw
I made my choice, followed His call.
No reservation felt at all
I now have peace within.
Break up the unplowed ground
Let righteousness and love abound
It's time for you to seek the Lord***

*Find cleansing through His word.
Break up the unplowed ground
When it's been tilled peace can be found
Set your eyes forward – don't look back
You'll find He'll keep you right on track.*

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 says that we have God's light, His treasure, in our hearts - our earthen vessel or jar of clay. He's given us power through the Holy Spirit to overlook offenses and to share His light. Jesus set the example for us. As He hung on the cross in agony He said..."Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

There's a world out there enslaved by sin and they're suffering. Jesus died for every single one of them – we have no right to be selective in who we tell?

Why not ask God to break through the walls you've built and help you see and feel the needs of others the way He does - even your enemies.

***** **WRITERS: PHILLIP BRIAN WHITE, RAY SCOTT**

***** BREAK THIS HEART *** LENGTH: 3:57**

*Laughter comes through heartache
Growing comes through pain
And Lord, I know You're slowly
Teaching me
I have to lose to gain
I've been all too careful
Of vessels and of jars
So won't you let your love
Break through the walls
Releasing what you are*

***Chorus:**
Break this heart
Let it be open
I know it is no good
Till all the bitterness is gone
Make my life
A vessel that's broken
So I can someday help
The one who falls*

*There's nothing worse than nothing
To live yet not to feel
I've been numb to all the suffering
A heart as cold as steel
Make me strong and tender
Take away my fears
And won't You give me holy insight, Lord
And wash my eyes with tears*

Repeat Chorus Twice

So I came someday help - The one who falls

Hosea 10:12a says...

Sow for yourselves righteousness. Reap the fruit of unfailing LOVE and break up your unplowed ground for it's time to seek the Lord until He comes and showers righteousness on you.

God's UNFAILING LOVE bought US from the grip of Hell and transformed us – undeserving as we are. 2 Corinthians 5:-21 says...

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 reads...

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.

God's UNFAILING LOVE in us can help us see others the way God does. If we've been wronged – remember the sin is really against God. And He forgave it with His Son's life. The real solution to dealing with evil in our society is not to spend time protesting it, but rather to proclaim the life changing Gospel message which can transform the heart of a person. God wants this done through our witness just like He did through Jonah. There is someone out there just waiting to hear the message God has given you for them – don't delay.

***** **WRITE: Dawn Thomas**
**** LORD SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU *** LENGTH: 3:00**

CHORUS

*Lord, somebody needs you won't you help them through me
Let me be your hand extended to someone in need*

VERSE 1

*Consume this calloused heart with tenderness inside
I can't avoid the hurting I keep seeing with my own eyes
There's so many people in this world I need to touch
And I just can't say that I love you if I don't love them as much*

repeat CHORUS

VERSE 2

*There's nothing I've done to earn these blessings that you give
So help me like you to be unselfish so that others may live
I don't wanna get so wrapped in my world that I can't see
That I was broken and so lonely until someone helped me
Oh, I wanna help somebody*

repeat CHORUS 2x

TAG

*Cause their my brothers and I just can't let them down
They're the lost and dying - who's souls must be found
Oh they got to be found*

repeat CHORUS 2x

*Oh somebody needs you
Help them through me
I wanna be your hand extended to someone in need.*

**We pray you've been blessed by this program. If so, please
write and tell us at..**

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**Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song
of praise!**